

PTO/PCT Rec'd 6 AUG 2002

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: :  
M. Bura et al. : Confirmation No.: 4979  
Serial No.: 10/018,621 : Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: December 17, 2001 : Group/Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
For: BRIDGE JOINT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

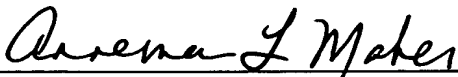
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith references of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which they may have a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56(b), it is not intended to constitute an admission that any document referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, August 1, 2002, in an envelope with sufficient postage as first-class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

  
Annemarie L. Maher

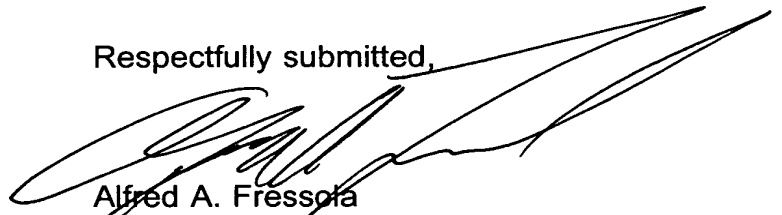
In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this IDS shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined under 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists.

Enclosed is an International Search Report dated September 22, 2000 issued in the international patent application from which the present U.S. application claims priority. The relevance of each reference is specifically explained in the Search Report.

Further, enclosed is a Form PTO-1449 listing the cited references. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed herewith. The abstract of each reference provides a concise explanation thereof.

This IDS is being submitted prior to receipt of a first Official Action in this matter; therefore, the undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this IDS. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this IDS.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 1, 2002

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